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Current, March 31, 1997

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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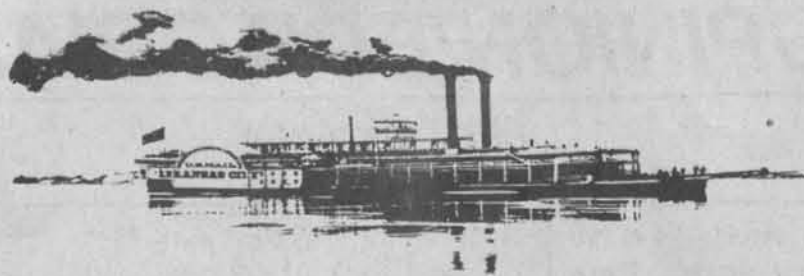
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The Rivermen tennis team is hoping for an ace this season. See page 5.



Litmag debuts its newest edition, *Watermark*. See page 3.



The Student Voice of UM-St. Louis

The Current

30th Anniversary 1966-1996

Issue 885

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

March 31, 1997

Burnin' Down the House

Arsonist burns *The Current*; investigation continues

by Bill Rolles
news associate

An arsonist is still at large after setting fire to the offices of *The Current*, 7940 Natural Bridge Rd., early Tuesday morning. According to UM-St. Louis chief of police Robert Roeseler, the St. Louis County Bomb and Arson Squad reported that the fire started "under the rear porch of the building."

"The point of origin is near the basement door," Roeseler said. "It appears that leaves were burnt in the area, and newspapers were also in the area."

Bundles of newspapers were kept stacked on the back porch of the house on a regular basis. Roeseler said the burnt newspapers were bundled, and the arsonist probably took them from the back porch. Roeseler said Michael Harmon, a maintenance worker, was checking gauges the night of the fire. Harmon was at the Music Building across the street from *The Current* when he smelled a hint of smoke in the air. He left to check another building but forgot something and returned to the Music Building. When Harmon went back the odor was stronger; he

went over to check out the house where the offices of *The Current* were located. He saw that it was burning, called police and the fire department and then attempted to contain the fire. Scott Lamar, editor in chief, is grateful for Harmon's actions.

"I haven't gotten a chance to meet or thank Michael Harmon," Lamar said. "But if it weren't for him, the building would have been reduced to rubble and burnt cinders. We got lucky that he forgot something, smelled the smoke and tried to fight the fire. We can consider him a hero for what he did."

UM-St. Louis police are investigating.

"Right now we are talking with anyone who might have knowledge of the fire," Roeseler said. "We have gotten a few leads, but right now we are not focussing on any individual suspects."

Lamar received the news at 3 a.m. and then later at 4:30 a.m. from police officer Floyd Wilding.

The first thing Wilding said was: "Have you made any enemies through the paper in the last month or so?"

Lamar said he probably had upset

see Fire, page 4



Photo by Ashley Cook

A charred door from the basement of *The Current* offices smolders after an arsonist set fire to the building Tuesday.

New editor promises diversity on op/ed page

by Scott Lamar
editor in chief

For years, the editorial page of *The Current* has consisted of the editor and managing editor's opinions, with an occasional letter to the editor.

Newly elected editor Doug Harrison wants to change that. Harrison, a junior English major, said he would like to form a culturally diverse editorial board to discuss the issues that effect our campus.

"When people turn to the editorial page and see an editorial about an issue that is of concern to the students,"

Harrison said, "they can look to *The Current*'s opinion as being representative of a cross-section of students."

But Harrison, 21, concedes that in addition to intellectual stimulation, the campus community must find the newspaper aesthetically pleasing.

Harrison said he hopes color photos on the front page will lure readers to the stands.

"The look of the front page won't change a lot," he said. "But I'd like to have more color if it's financially feasible. I think that full color pictures will increase readership. It doesn't matter if your story is something of epic propor-

tions or it's a boring newswatch, if you put a color picture on the front page, people will see it."

Last week, the staff of the newspaper voted unanimously in favor of Harrison over current student body President Bob Fritchey in the election for editor.

Harrison, who now serves as managing editor of the paper, also works as a beat writer for the *North County Suburban Journals*.

Harrison began his career at *The Current* last March as a copyeditor. Within one month's time, he was promoted to managing editor.

Although Harrison said he feels confident in his abilities to run the newspaper, he said he is anxious about the prospects of recruiting and retaining quality staff members, which are intensified following the recent arson attempt. He also expressed concern about the lack of visibility to the newspaper's constituency as well as its advertising patrons.

"After experiencing the relocation," Harrison said, "I feel that we're going to have to work three times as hard as we normally work just to maintain what

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Check out our hilarious parody issue, *The Stagnant*, pullout section.

Spring(ing) into class



Photo by Ashley Cook

A science instructor and her class take advantage of last week's spring weather and have class outside Benton Hall.

Radio Daze:

KWMU stands firm—no students behind the mics

by Kim Hudson
news editor

Current interns and management at KWMU say that student-run programming is unnecessary while some students and prominent graduates, including Frank Cusumano of KSDK-TV, disagree.

For years, some students have objected to the lack of student involvement in KWMU programming.

According to *The Emerging University*, a history of UM-St. Louis written by Chancellor Blanche Touhill in 1985, students were allowed to control programming on weekend nights from midnight to 6 a.m. in 1971.

Robert W. Thomas, the director of KWMU at that time, did not envision student involvement even then, and students were not allowed broadcast time outside of that arrangement.

Despite student pressure for more time, Thomas rationalized keeping the current schedule because "there were no on-campus courses in radio and because his staff would not have time to train the student interns."

In addition, Thomas had announced that programming would "consist mainly of classical music with an emphasis on news and public affairs."

Since then, that program format has been eliminated, along with any student control over KWMU programming.

Mike Murray, chairman of the Communications Department, said that while there is no



Photo by Ashley Cook

KWMU, the University-owned radio station, features news and "intelligent talk." Offices are on the first level of Lucas Hall.

programming for students, there are several internship opportunities at KWMU.

He also cited the station's format of continuous news and public affairs.

"I feel our students are benefitting from the current arrangement," Murray said. "[The student program] was a block of programming and KWMU does news."

He added that because of KWMU's reputation as a professional station and because its 100,000 watt capacity makes it the most powerful in St. Louis, successful student interns are prime candidates for positions in other stations.

Mary Edwards, production manager for

KWMU, agreed.

"We have several different opportunities for students to intern in production, sales and advertising," Edwards said. "Many of our graduates have gone on to positions at other stations. We are very proud of this."

Frank Cusumano, sportscaster for KSDK-TV and 1984 UM-St. Louis graduate, participated in a KWMU program called *The Sports Spectrum* during his years at the University.

He agreed that the production aspects of the current internships may be valuable to students. However, he said that the experience broadcast

see KWMU, page

End of semester evaluations mean squat for students

Every year, students go through the ritual of evaluating their instructors.

They bubble in their name and what grade they expect to receive in the class. Then, they jot down some comments about their professor.

I assume that these evaluations are sent to a dean or vice chancellor so that they may have something to hold over the professor's head at a later date.



Scott Lamar
editor-in-chief

But what's in it for the student? Sure, they get to vent some anger. Conversely, they may take the time to pay their instructors with some kind words for a job well done. In any case, the evaluations aren't

worth the paper they're written on if a more practical use for them can't be invented.

Evaluations should be used for the benefit of the student as well as the administration. That way, students can avoid wasting time and money by taking a course with an infamous instructor while they skip the aggravation that goes with it.

Almost every student has had, or will have, a monotone professor that stands up and reads straight out of the textbook. Others, myself included, have had a professor who stumbles in 15 minutes late to class every day—including test days. Still other professors have this annoying trait of thinking they are God. Sure, these may be little things, but it's the little things that wear on a person after 12 or 13 weeks.

Since administrators have adopted their own evaluation forms, to use in any fashion they choose, it's only reasonable that students develop their own system to critique their instructors.

One system is already in practice at the University of Texas-Austin. It's called Slam Tables. The Slam Tables are set up during registration for student to write comments about instructors in a public forum. Armed with butcher paper and a marker, students at UT-Austin have the freedom to rip into a deserving professor for the benefit of letting others know not to take a particular instructor. On the other hand, many professors are showered with praise on the tables.

Students there say the Slam Tables are a success. It gives them a forum to communicate and obtain information that they couldn't ordinarily get aside from the usual word of mouth.

Some of the professors there don't like it, saying that it is little more than vandalism. But the odds are good that they've been slammed.

Others, who have been glorified on the tables, undoubtedly are in favor of it.

At UM-St. Louis, where many students aren't afforded the opportunity to talk with one another, something to the effect of a Slam Table would be the perfect vehicle for teacher evaluation, as well as discussion and debate.

I'm not saying that some hair-brained miscreant will not write, "f*** the [expletive]" so and so's. Even the idiots will want to throw in their accumulated wealth of knowledge.

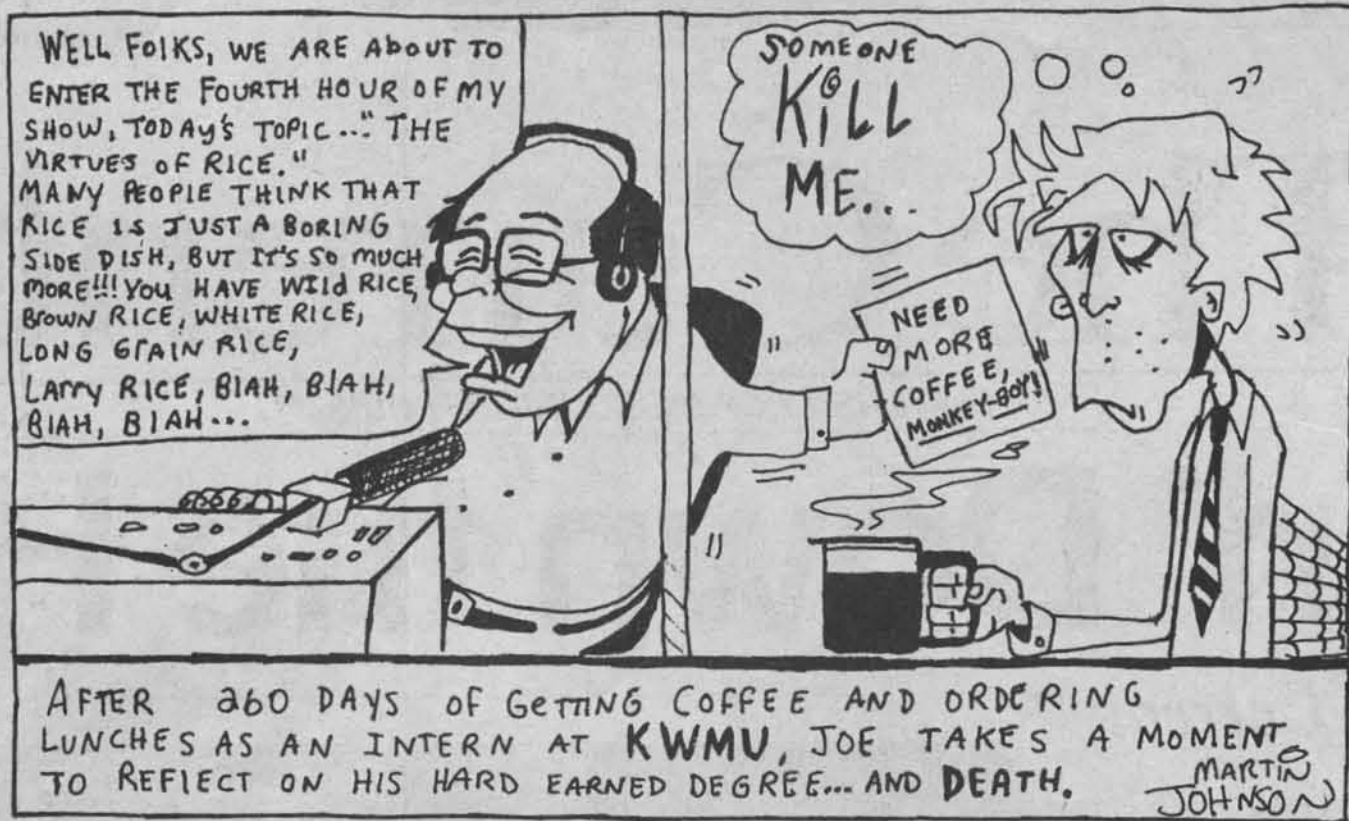
I am trusting enough of the student body to give honest, intelligent assessments of professors they've had in the past. I would expect a good portion of the comments to be positive.

I'm equally sure that the people with negative comments won't spare any expense in tearing a professor a new one in.

If professors don't agree with the aforementioned student forum, then they are probably scared they'll be slammed. If instructors don't have a thick enough skin to take the criticism, they are in the wrong business.

I only wish I would have had a way to maneuver around some of the more undesirable professors in my time here. A lot of money has been wasted and patience exhausted by undesirable instructors.

On the flip side, I'm just now hearing by word of mouth, after four years at the University the cheery songs of professors at this school whose classes I would have very much liked to take.



Keeping the conversation going

Every class is a conversation. But in any conversation there's always more silence than speech; and the better the conversation, the more we're talking to each other silently.

We may be having a free-flowing, up front discussion, with nearly every voice in the classroom heard. Then it's particularly necessary to "hear" the silences that remain.

If anyone loses the thread of our talk, the timing of the whole group suffers. Fortunately, in any academic conversation, there are as many threads as speakers and listeners: some track the *hows*, others the *whys*. Every class worth attending begins with more conversations than it can conclude. I often say to a class, "I've been talking to you in my head."

Most teaching and learning takes place in our heads and outside class. Occasionally I ask students to write down questions they have about our

material. Or we add "footnotes" to a class: Yes, it was Ben Franklin who said, "God helps those who help themselves"; he and 6 others in a 2,500-year-old conversation we've just joined.

If that kind of intellectual productivity isn't going on outside of class, it's probably not going on inside either. It requires uncommon engagement to take good notes and simultaneously discuss in class. It takes good timing to break into a discussion and excellent timing to anticipate the pauses in a lecture and break into them.

My students often go beyond the call of duty in their awareness of this. They talk to me "metac conversationally." International students talk about how education works in France or Japan or Ireland. Those committed to a religion or a profession speak about how this makes them different thinkers.

In my office I sit going over a poem with a student, he reading as a male, I as a female. In class I sit fomenting as much reaction as I can, as though we are enjoying a salon, a place where intellectual exchange has exponential results.

Recently, a UMCJ-School grad and long-

time writer for *The Washington Post* described his college life in the 1950s as a "seamless life." "What it means is making no differentiation between classroom and poolroom, street or study, your house or mine, faculty tea or beer at the Stables" (Bob Williams, *Mizzou* Winter 1997). For all its plusses, including a "deep, deep honesty," this seamless conversation flowed on a tide of alcohol and combined an all-male faculty and all-male star students. More unheard silences.

At our commuter school groups meet outside class. Library workers, the Writing Lab staff: every major has its locales. Clusters like these keep the conversation going. My students sometimes give each other comedy to study by: see <http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/arts/science/english/sweet.htm> for their "Ode Time Cafe" menu and "Romantic Literary Period Basketball Tournament." But keep talking to me in your head. And as soon as you find an opening in class, speak out loud.

Sweet teaches English and Women's Studies.

KWMU's signal loud and clear: no students allowed

It may well be that we appreciate more that which we have no longer. Similarly, we often fail to appreciate that which we never had in the first place. Such is the case with KWMU, the University-owned radio station. Since the station and the University have so long denied students any access of measurable worth to facilities of such a potentially rewarding nature, it comes as little surprise that students don't storm the station, hold management hostage and demand air time on one of the metropolitan area's most powerful radio stations. They're used to it by now.

But that concession does not absolve the University or KWMU of the responsibility they have to and are not fulfilling

with students.

Much has been made about the "valuable marketing" internships the station offers one or two lucky students each year or so. And every time station management is taken to task on the absence of student participation, it faithfully trots out the handful of token former students who the station hired as evidence that KWMU is committed to students.

Frankly this transparent charade is tiring, insulting and worn out.

These crafty public relations crutches to do not change the undeniable, inescapable fact that the grand high station masters refuse students any on-air time and do not even allow students to crouch in the dark corners of the studio to observe the crown princes and princesses of the air waves at work, lest the students' presence

debase the sacred inner chamber of the most holy worshipful KWMU.

More likely, the junta of KWMU button pushers fear that the St. Louis elite who listen (and more important, contribute) to KWMU might switch off their radios and clasp their checkbooks if they think two hours of student-controlled programming will mean a couple Wayne and Garth types, broadcasting two hours of unmitigated, mind-numbing, guitar-thrashing radio hell each day.

Of course, no one has considered that students are capable of producing as much "intelligent talk" as Joe Pollack, Andrea Murray, Diane Rehm and Monitor Radio syndication.

Doug Harrison

Letters to the editor Dean offers "honor"able perspective to article

As interim dean of the Honors College, I feel obliged to respond to statements quoted in the March 17 issue of *The Current* regarding the Honors College. My response is not a personal criticism but is only intended to correct common misunderstandings about the college.

Faculty who propose and teach seminars in the college almost always find their seminars rewarding for them as well as for their 15 or fewer students.

This inspires faculty to update and offer their seminar again when their teach-

ing schedules permit—often every year. Faculty should not be discouraged from teaching in the Honors College because of their mistaken assumption that their seminar will be offered only once.

The other concern expressed by several people quoted in the article is that the college will compromise its quality, camaraderie and identity by gradually doubling its present size of 260 students. The fact is that the Honors College continues to be "a well-kept secret" because of its relatively small size. It needs to be more widely known as a highly selective col-

lege that brings outstanding students together to learn from one another and from the University's most talented faculty.

An ongoing commitment to this interactive kind of learning on the part of honors students, faculty and administrators will enable the Honors College to grow in quality, reputation and community spirit while also growing in size. The evidence so far this year supports that prediction.

James F. Doyle
interim Dean

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Correction
In issue 884 of *The Current*, Jim Avery was identified as a biology major. Avery is a communication major. We regret the error.

Of fire and its uses

It's strange how the most degenerate acts of human of repugnance and perversion can in a roundabout way restore your faith in the intrinsically good nature of people.

You guessed: this is going to be about a fire in my office building, about my week of unrelenting stress and the observations I've had time to make.

So if you find that off-putting, self-absorbed or in any way predictably unoriginal, this is not for you.

Unfortunately, this is also the tale of an ineffectual administrative hierarchy, crippled by its own self-perpetuating bureaucracy.

And it is ultimately a rehash of things I've said before set to a rather unsavory and all-too-real script. The script



Doug Harrison
managing editor

began on Wednesday morning in vice chancellor of Student Affairs Karl Beeler's office. You would think, and indeed I did, that since we are students and Dr. Beeler is the vice chancellor of our affairs (and this is in fact an affair of some import) that not only would he coordinate the administration's response to our crisis, but also his position would afford him the autonomy to resolve the emergency of students and leave the question-asking and second-guessing to later.

You would think that, and you would be wrong. Dr. Beeler, Linda Royal, the entire student affairs office, Gloria Schutlz, a guy named Derek, Craig the computer wizard—all these people and some I've forgotten (whose praises I will eternally sing) worked in a marathon of relentless coordination to find a manageable solution to our problem.

Such diligent selflessness did not go unrewarded: we had office space ready for our arrival within three hours of our original meeting with Dr. Beeler. With a temporary solution so near fruition, we should've seen it coming. In one fell swoop, two administrative assistants to administrators higher up the food chain called and undid in a matter syllables what so many people had worked so hard to bring together.

The administrators, we were told, could not deliver the information themselves, for they were far too busy devising a real solution to our problem. Nevermind that they never even bothered to consult us or the one administrator (Dr. Beeler) who had spent all day with us before they graced us with their presence and solution.

So by implication, the one arm of the administration that oversees the student body (a university's most valuable asset) could work unto utter exhaustion, could arrange for an end to world hunger, a cure for cancer, even a painless way to make Michael Bolton stop oppressing us with his musical miscarriages.

But that work is all for naught if a particularly spicy burrito some administrator had for lunch isn't settling quite agreeably around the time he hears of Dr. Beeler's method of resolution.

This fire has done more than make me nervous—really, really nervous—for a long time—a very, very long time. It has been a fire of trial for the administration. The heat has refined those with a genuine concern for students and a sense of common decency.

It has also forced to the surface those misdirected types who have sadly lost sight of why they come to work every day and have daily obfuscated the efforts of good folks like Karl Beeler and Linda Royal. I see that now and openly apologize if I have vilified or indicted innocent administrators who have the particular misfortune of working so close to the true villains and merely appear guilty by association.

Like so much vile, impure slag, the malignant strain of administrative bureaucracy reside atop a mixture whose worth is far greater than the scum that floats to the top of it. Until that putrid, corrupt element is skimmed off and thrown out, the University and those who are making real contributions to its success will never be realized or appreciated.

Letters policy

The Current welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be brief and accompanied by your name, telephone and student numbers. *The Current* reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length; letters will not be published without the aforementioned information. Letters can be dropped off at or mailed to:

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column a generic offering



by Jill Barrett
features editor

I have a deep-seated fear that I am careening towards middle-age without passing GO. I have not become victim to any of the things trappings of adulthood that have befallen my friends like the plague — no house-buying, marriage or parenthood looms in my immediate future. I haven't started shopping for wood-paneled minivans, and I don't have to fake an interest in my husband's new lawnmower anytime soon ("Of course you got a good bargain, honey. You're right — even frontiersmen thought it was easier to kill bears than to purchase large appliances."). My life remains simple enough to fill out my own taxes.

But the heady days of my youth are behind me. Just a few evenings ago, I found myself spending a quiet evening at home playing board games and sipping hot tea. Next thing I know, it will be afternoons of bridge, blue hair and support hose.

At one point in my life, I wanted to become a professional Trivial Pursuit player, if there is such a thing. A product of over-education, I decided that the only way I could earn money was to travel the country, hustling at Trivial Pursuit. I'd go into a dusty church basement, pretend I had an IQ in the negative integers and convince the church ladies to play a game for money. My ultimate goal would be a stint on "Jeopardy." The only snag with my plan is the fact that I don't like the game very much.

My favorite board game is Balderdash. It's a game in which players try to guess the definition of a very obscure word. All the players make up a definition of the word, and everyone tries to determine which is the real definition. It's the only game I cheerfully lose, because I have so much fun making up definitions. After a few rounds, people figure out that the three-page definition — complete with an appendix and diagrams — is probably my creation.

(Some of my best tries: *Glock* — A drink made from fermented goat's milk, corn liquor and gasoline. Traditionally served at YakFest, a Central Asian ancestral celebration. This alcoholic beverage is now marketed in QuikStops as "dirt-cheap booze.")

Peesweep — The effect of too much glock on YakFest revellers.

Pricket — A smaller-than-average sized penis. (I keep forgetting. That's a *prickling*, isn't it?)

I'm quite fond of my Rocky and Bullwinkle role-playing Game, too. Any game with plastic handpuppets of Boris and Mr. Peabody had got to be good.

My least favorite game is Monopoly. I absolutely hate to play this game because it brings out the latent capitalist in me. Give me a pair of dice and a miniature tophat and suddenly I turn into this slumlord extraordinaire.

I don't care if my grandmother's in the hospital and just wants to pass time. I don't care if she never sends me directly to jail because I'm a "sweet girl and [she's] sure I've learned my lesson." I don't even care if she's heavily sedated. Hell, I'll call the nurse for even more pain medication if I think it will increase my chances of stealing \$500 bills from the bank. If she's a few bucks shy on the rent, I'll seize the property. She can go live on ShortLine RR. Hey, she bought it even after I owned the other three. If she wants to keep her houses on Virginia Avenue, she can sell me all the utilities for half-price.

She may be my grandmother, but more important — she's a tenant.

• Watermark's managing editor, Guy Bates reads some of his work at the Way Out Club this past Friday evening.

Photos by Ashley Cook

faculty and students
gather to release

Watermark

by John Jones
features associate

Poets and Writers revealed their souls on stage last Friday for the release party of *Watermark*, the Literary Magazine for UM-St. Louis. A bawdy crowd of students and faculty gathered together to celebrate almost two semesters of work on the publication. It was almost standing room only at the Way Out Club in south St. Louis. Selected poems and prose were read to the audience.

"This is part of an education," explained Professor Nan Sweet before the opening of the readings.

A few gifted spoken word performers emerged on stage to move the audience with hard and soft words and speech. Two of the strongest were Hari Campbell and Joshua Kryah.

Reading with a gentle but strong voice Campbell's poem *Sounds just like...* (*Tenor Saxophones*) took the audience's imaginations to bar stools in sultry jazz clubs, or up to lofty telephone wires among pigeons.

Joshua Kryah's poem *The Night has Two Arms to hold Itself* was more abstract. It projected images and emotions. The performance left one with a feeling a longing that can't quite be fulfilled. Kryah's voice and words resonated throughout the room.

One could identify when the audience was moved by the words. The crowd would murmur approval at a speaker's words or laugh at the humor.

Standing at a side door between the two rooms in the club was Guy Bates, the managing editor of *Watermark*.

"The poetry is incredibly strong this year," said Bates. Bates explained that there was a worry among the staff from the lack of submissions from students on campus. But this didn't seem to diminish the quality of the works featured. The submissions were put to a screening process that found the best works from the campus.

"Litmag celebrates what people do... I think that the book can stand on its own," explained Bates.

Paging through *Watermark* one can not only read some of the University's best poetry and prose, but readers can see some of the most imaginative and beautiful photographic pictures and art submitted by students.

Watermark will go on sale for \$3.00 a copy at the UM-St. Louis campus bookstore. The magazine is enjoyable to read and is a good purchase for students interested in writing and prose.

Litmag will soon start actively recruiting people to volunteer for next year's staff.



• Steve Thomas reads one of his compositions in *Watermark*.



"Litmag celebrates what people can do ... I think that the book can stand on its own."

— Guy Bates
Managing Editor,
Watermark

Former student pursues career as a drag queen

by Jill Barrett
features editor

There's no business like show business, and there's no show business like cabarets. Especially when those beautiful girls are all men. Female impersonators have been in the theater world since the time of *Antigone*, when young boys would play female characters in ancient Greek plays. In modern times, female impersonators develop their own shows, their own names and their own performance styles.

Breaking into the world of a drag queen is as difficult as being a struggling actor, according to Michael Robben, a female impersonator who is just beginning his career. Robben attended UM-St. Louis for a semester before transferring to Webster to study theater.

Robben found it difficult to get cast in straight productions.

"Directors would tell me 'I'm too tiny; I'm too ethnic; I'm too femmy,'" Robben said.

"Sometimes I get a female role, but I never landed a decent male role. If I stayed in straight theater, I'd be typecast as 'the good little faggot next door.' In St. Louis, you can't make a good living off of these roles."

"Impersonation is all about how good of an illusion you create and how good you are at entertaining a crowd," Robben continued. "It's all creativity, pageantry and entertainment."

Although the artistic outlet exists for performers like Robben, he believes that getting started as a drag queen is just as difficult as breaking into straight theater, if not more so.

"What's the hardest part?" Robben asked himself. "Money for costumes — that's the biggest expense. But you just can't walk into a bar and start performing. If you're lucky,

someone will take you under their wing and show you the ropes."

After Robben left Webster, he was in the audience of a cabaret one night when he was approached by Alexis Principle, a performer. Principle asked Robben if he had ever done drag, and told him that he had "potential."

Principle's role as mentor includes coaching Robben about things he needs to know to be a successful female impersonator. Robben has had additional advice from established performers regarding make-up, padding, costumes and staging a show.

Under normal circumstances, Robben can prepare for a show in about 45. Robben's costumes include five pairs of pantyhose, hip padding and artificial breasts in addition to clothes, hairstyling and make-up.

"I usually use little foam balls — like Nerf balls — cut in the shape I need," Robben

explained. "Depending on the cut of the dress, I either use spray adhesive or just pop 'em into place."

Robben said that some performers use prosthetic breasts that they purchase at specialty-supply stores that cater to women who have had mastectomies. Prosthetics can be very expensive.

How effective are Robben's costumes? He related a story about how he went to visit a female friend at an out-of-state university. His friend wanted to play a practical joke on a sorority, so she faked a class list and a room assignment for Robben. During Rush Week, Robben dressed in drag, went to several sororities and got accepted as a pledge at one.

"I could be a Kappa Kappa... something, if I wanted," Robben said. "I heard that the Tri Deltas had bad reputations, so I stayed away from them."

UnderCurrent

What is your favorite thing to
do around a campfire?



"Telling stories — the setting makes it fun."

— Christina Lee
Sophomore • Social Work

"Sharing embarrassing stories about your friends. It's fun to hear what they've done."

— Julia Farajallah
Freshman • Education



"Anything that's a four-letter word, because it's fun."

— Shawn Brock
Senior • Criminal Justice

"Drinking hot chocolate and toasting marshmallows with a good-looking man."

— Andrea Banis
Graduate Student • Sociology



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 **TIME** **NationsBank** **ST. LOUIS AMERICAN**

OFF THE WALL



by Ken Dunkin
sports editor

Now that it has had time to cool off, I have quite a few comments to make about Jim Coen's firing. I think it was a bad move.

Coen, the Riverwomen basketball head coach's for the past four seasons, has gotten a bad rap. He has just had bad luck with his team.

His career at UM-St. Louis started off well. He led a less than great team in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association Tournament. The team had a 16-14 record.

Don't think for a minute that his 219-247 record is a bad mark. He often worked around tough conditions. He had several players that just didn't or wouldn't adjust to his style.

Those players were sent packing. They were replaced with players that would play Jim Coen style of basketball; the 3-point game with solid players.

Sure, Coen wasn't the greatest recruiter. He had problems several seasons ago as a result of waiting too long on several players.

Then his star point guard Regina Howard left the team for personal reasons, magnifying the team's problems. They went on to a losing season.

The next year, he lost his two centers. Angie Stubblefield and Jade Turner both left the team for reasons that Coen couldn't prevent.

So, Coen went out and got an excellent class of freshman. Denise Simon, Krystal Logan, Charlee Dixon and Sarah Carrier. On that team he had six freshman.

The team finished 4-22. Now any team that has lost as many players as the Riverwomen have would be happy to add the quality and youth the team has gotten.

This season he added three more quality freshman, including highly touted Donna Simon, Missy England and Jamie Dressler. Because of the additions, the team improved.

I know the 5-22 record may not show much improvement but, the Great Lakes Valley Conference is a tougher league and the team performed well in most of the games.

In the final four games of the season, the team pulled together. They did what every losing team is supposed to do, work harder.

This team was built under Coen, and I think he should have been given the opportunity to win with them.

The new coach will be coming into a great opportunity: a young team that has the ability to play well.

Don't be surprised to see this team at .500 or better next year. The Simon sisters keep getting better.

If this team ever gets a center, Logan can move to power forward where she is a much better player. With another year, the point guard duo of Dixon and England should be a dominant force.

It is tough to see Coen go. He was a class act that never made excuses. Maybe that is why he lost his job in the end.

Rivermen continue to dominate

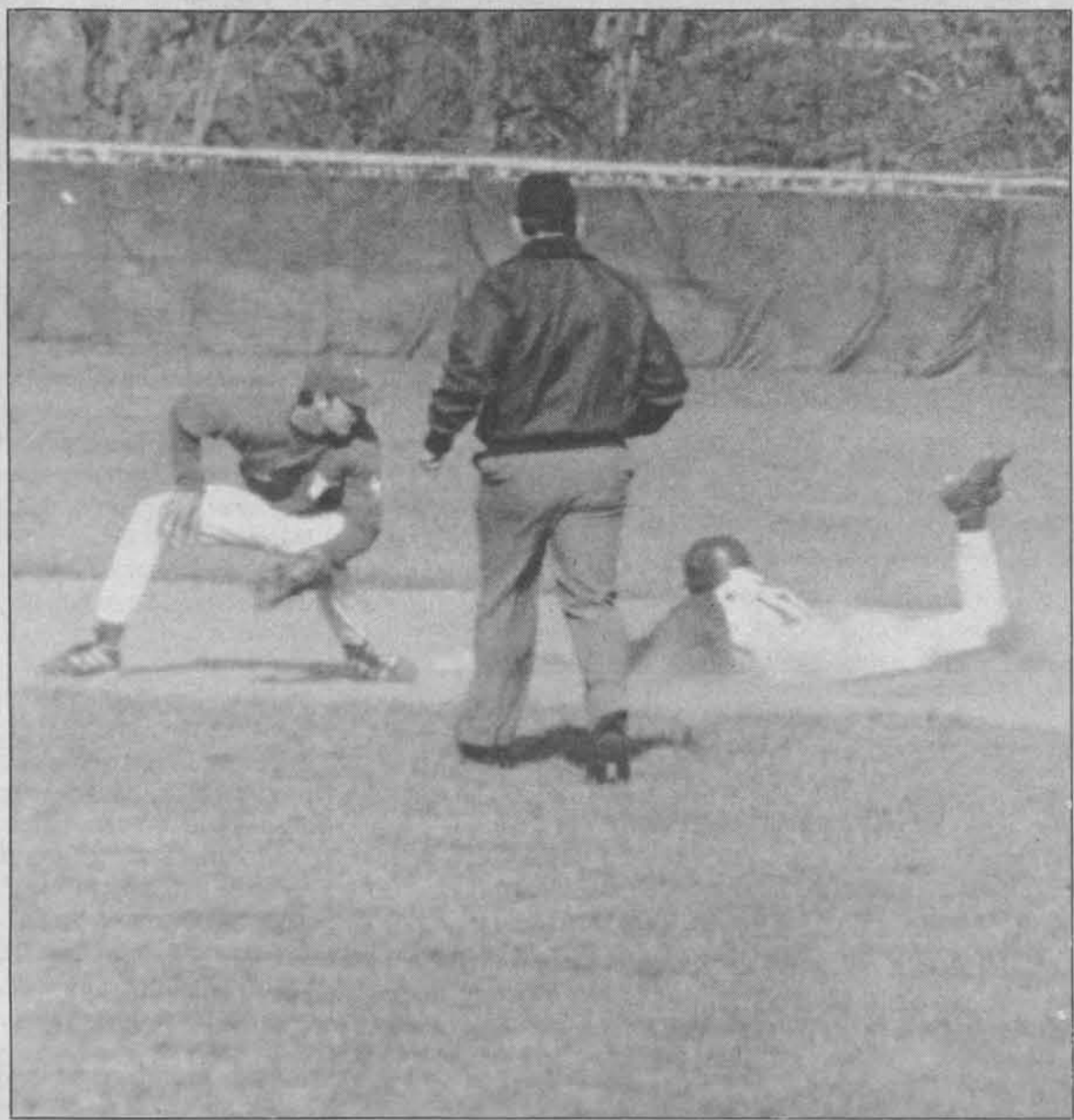


Photo by Ken Dunkin

Outfielder Joe Christian tags a runner in a game earlier this season.

by Brian Folsom
sports associate

Through the first month of the 1997 season, the UM-St. Louis Rivermen baseball team is ranked sixth in the nation for Division II, yet they remain hungry for more success.

The Rivermen are 13-3, but head coach Jim Brady said he feels that the team should be 16-0.

"In our three losses we just didn't play quality defense," Brady said. "We caught some bad breaks, but we also gave away too many outs."

Brady added that when the Rivermen defense gives away too many outs, the pitchers suffer the most.

"Our pitchers have to overcome the errors because they have to make more pitches, which causes them to become tired earlier than they normally would," Brady said.

The Rivermen recently swept a doubleheader from the University of Indiana on Mar. 23, 13-5 and 13-6. Indiana was ranked tenth in the nation, so the victory was especially satisfying for the team according to Brady.

"We stayed focused both games," Brady said. "We knew that they were going to be a tough opponent, and we played them tough."

The Rivermen suffered one defeat recently against IUPUI Fort Wayne in the first game of a doubleheader, and Brady said that game should have been won.

"We let up, and as a result we got beat," Brady said. "But it made us realize that we have to play every game hard."

The Rivermen came back and

won the second game.

The team owes a lot of its success to several players who are having great starts.

Todd Schmidt leads the team with a .545 batting average and he is second on the team with 20 runs batted in.

Dan Chinnici's hitting .489 and leads the team with 22 RBI. Junior James Hoffman is hitting .510, and freshman Scott Luczak is hitting .409.

According to Brady, Luczak has been a nice surprise.

"He has done a great job at second base and shortstop," Brady said. "He has outstanding work ethic, and he means a lot to our team."

On the mound, year Joe Raddeke leads the staff with a 3-0 record and 3.13 ERA.

If the Rivermen continue to win, they will do it without centerfielder Steve Johnson, who recently broke his arm while diving for a ball. Johnson was the Rivermen's lead-off hitter and had a .562 on base percentage.

The Rivermen were scheduled to play a home game against Kentucky Wesleyan on Mar. 28, then play them again in a doubleheader on Saturday. Brady said they will be a formidable opponent.

"We still don't know too much about our conference opponents yet," Brady said. "We are taking things a game at a time."

Brady added that he thinks as long as the team gets good defense, it will have a great chance to win.

"We fully expect to win every time we take the field," Brady said.

Tennis team starts well in conference

by Brian Folsom
sports associate

The 1997 UM-St. Louis Rivermen Tennis team began conference play recently, and it showed that opponents should not take them for granted.

The Rivermen began play in their new Great Lakes Valley Conference with victories over IPFU and Northern Kentucky. Then came defeats to Indiana and SIUE.

According to head coach Rick Gyllenborg, the Rivermen are improved, but there is still much room for improvement.

"Everyone on the team has played well at times, and we have different people stepping up and doing the job," Gyllenborg said. "We just need to approach our nonconference games a little different."

The Rivermen, (2-7 overall, 2-2 conference) have yet to win a nonconference game. In the GLVC, Gyllenborg said that the competition is pretty much what he expected.

"According to what the other coaches have told me, the competition is really what we expected," he said. "SIUE is probably the best team right now, and they have proven that."

Gyllenborg added that the other three schools the Rivermen played against were pretty evenly matched.

"We just need to find the right partners and chemistry because we are giving away matches on the spot."

*—Rick Gyllenborg
head coach*

"All of those were close matchups where things could have gone either way," he said.

Through the first nine matches, Gyllenborg has been able to watch his players perform and get an idea of what kind of lineup he wants to use against his opponents. He said he will use from one to five: Rich Durbin, Scott Goodyear, Stein Rotegaard, Dave Crowell, and Townsend Morris.

Durbin and Rotegaard pair up together in doubles matches, as do Goodyear and Krol.

"Right now, Krol and Goodyear are my number one guys in doubles, they have played very well," Gyllenborg said.

Gyllenborg also said that the combination of Durbin and Rotegaard has



Photo by Ashley Cook

David Crowell hits the ball in a practice earlier this season.

played well also.

"We are just having trouble with our number three doubles," Gyllenborg said. "We just need to find the right partners and chemistry because we are giving away matches

in that spot."

The team then returns to conference play the following weekend when they travel to Southern Indiana, Kentucky Wesleyan, and Bellarmine. Gyllenborg said he hopes the team

can pull out at least two victories. "We are not expected to beat Southern Indiana, and the Bellarmine game could go either way," he said. "I would be real disappointed, however, if we didn't go 2-1 on that trip."

Tennis bounces over Illinois-Springfield

by Ken Dunkin
sports editor

With their 6-3 victory over Illinois-Springfield the Rivermen tennis team won their first non-conference game.

The Rivermen are 3-7 overall and 2-2 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. They took on the aggressive Illinois-Springfield

"We have completely different teams," head coach Rick Gyllenborg said. "It was nice to get back at them for a bad loss they gave us last year."

The number won with quality play from their players. Number one singles player Rich Durbin won as he rolled over the competition.

"He wasn't even playing number one at the beginning of the season," Gyllenborg said. "He has risen to the occasion of being moved up. He played well today. He also played well in his match Thursday at Washington University."

The differences in last years winless conference team are great. The biggest

difference being their depth.

"We have a much deeper team," Rotegaard said. "The freshman have a lot of energy. They are very competitive."

The team got a victory out of the third spot as Stein Rotegaard beat his opponent.

"It was a tough match, a three set-ter," Rotegaard said. "He made a lot of mistakes and I feed on those."

"Stein is solid three for me," Gyllenborg said. "He won't beat himself. If he plays a guy that is better than him he tries to find ways to win. He doesn't give up."

Though he lost, freshman Scott Goodyear played well in his match.

"He played against a guy that splits time at number one," Gyllenborg said. "I'm not sure that his guy wasn't as good or better than the guy at one."

Already, the young team has impressed senior number one player Durbin. He has seen quality teams when he played four years ago. "This team is the best team UM-St. Louis has had," Durbin said. "The best in many years."

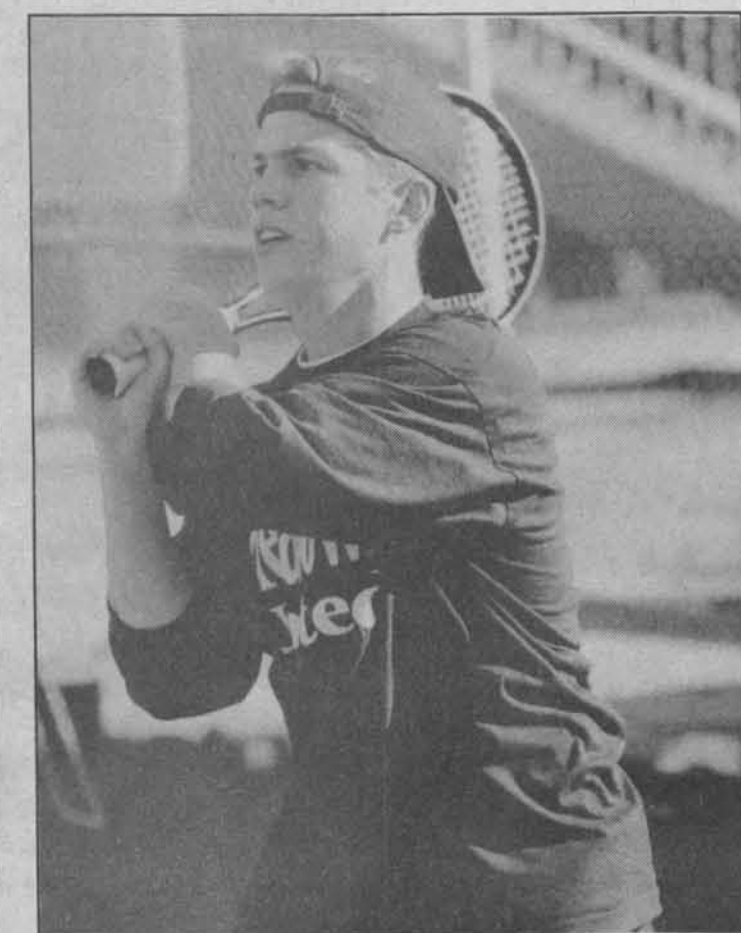


Photo by Ashley Cook

Scott Goodyear at practice earlier this season.

Kocis pitches way to victory

Nichol Kocis pitched both games for the Riverwomen softball team, winning both with commanding pitching performances.

The Riverwomen, 9-9 on the season, ran over Great Lakes Valley Conference rivals Northern Kentucky and IUPUI-Ft. Wayne.

In the first game, the Riverwomen shut-out Northern Kentucky 2-0. The Riverwomen got on the board quick and didn't look back. They scored in the first and third innings, Kocis getting the shut-out.

In the second game the Riverwomen held off IUPUI-Ft. Wayne in the final innings, winning the game 5-2. IUPUI-Ft. Wayne rallied in the bottom of the seventh before Kocis bore down for the victory.

More candidates enter SGA election

by Bill Rolfes
news associate

During next week's Student Government Association elections, the ballots will have names on them, for sure.

"Officially we have one application for each executive position," said Bob Fritchey, SGA President.

The three candidates in the election (as officially listed at press time) were: James Avery, for president; Robert Rath, for vice president; and Neal Lewis, for comptroller. Fritchey said several more students have expressed interest in running, but have yet to submit applications.

The application deadline was 5 p.m. Friday.

Toby Lauer, an election chair, asked the Assembly for volunteers to work during the elections April 8 and 9.

"If anybody wants to volunteer just an hour of their time it would really help us out," Lauer said.

Fritchey later addressed the issue of parking tickets.

Speaking on behalf of Student Court Chief Justice Steve Bartok, Fritchey said the campus police have announced that it distributed unauthorized parking tickets in lot S, be-

Editor, from page 1

would have been a normal week at 7940 [Natural Bridge Road]."

Nonetheless, the presses will keep rolling.

And Harrison said students can expect news with a focus on campus

KWMU, from page 1

ing proved invaluable to him.

"It is fine to have an internship," Cusumano said. "But unless you are actually doing the product, you cannot grow. Just watching people do it is not enough."

Kevin Colleen, reporter for KMOX radio and 1982 UM-St. Louis graduate,

hind the Music Building, during February.

"Try to spread the word as much as you can," Fritchey said. "If you know anyone who has gotten a ticket for parking outside the Music Building for the month of February, we were told to excuse those appeals."

Karl Beeler, interim vice chancellor of Student Affairs urged the assembly to join the University Senate, so that it can address such issues as parking.

"You have an opportunity to influence these things if you'll take your places on the Senate," Beeler said. "There is a way of communicating what the problems are, and parking is probably the number one problem on campus."

Parking is horrendous. You have an obligation to do something about it."

Fritchey urged students who have received tickets that match this description to appeal to the student court. He announced that students will now have 10 working days to appeal parking tickets rather than 7.

The assembly unanimously voted to approve Robin Runk, a criminal justice major, as a justice on the student court. Runk officially replaces David Kassabaum. He has been "out

news and events.

"Our coverage will tend to appeal to those who are involved," Harrison said. "Usually the newsmakers and the news stories originate from the people who are involved."

worked with Cusumano at KWMU. He said that the current format may not allow interns enough hands-on experience.

"I think [the lack of student broadcasting] is a lousy arrangement if the University wants graduates that have experience on the air," Colleen said.



photo by Ashley Cook
From left to right, SGA treasurer David Friedrichs and Comptroller Ron Chamberlin look on as President Bob Fritchey addresses the Assembly at Wednesday's meeting.

of touch" with the student court for some time, Fritchey said.

Ron Chamberlin, SGA comptroller, said the Student Activities Budget Committee had finished meeting

When his tenure is complete, Harrison said he hopes to have left a mark on his staff as well as the campus.

"I'm most interested in maintaining and improving the integrity of

with organizations March 23. He said that by the end of this week, organizations should have received letters from Rick Blanton, interim director of the University Center.

The Current," Harrison said. "And I hope that I would leave a mark on my staff. I hope they would remember me as an amicable editor."

Harrison will assume the role of editor in chief May 6.

However, supporters of the current internship method maintain that it is better than one that allows strong student involvement.

Al Madrid, coordinator of internships and practicums in the Communications Department, said that most student-run stations may allow broadcast-

ing experience while falling short on behind-the-scenes preparation.

"Students could d.j. on a regular student-run station," Madrid said. "But very few times do they get to do production or advertising."

Debbie Johnson, Marketing and Outreach Assistant for KWMU and

The Current Newswire

Faculty promotions announced. Chancellor Blanche M. Touhill announced earlier this week that 21 faculty members have received tenure, promotion or both. Promoted to professor were: Ken Anderson, Thomas Ireland, Richard Rosenfeld, Don Shields and William Welsh. Albert Camigliano was promoted to associate professor. Receiving tenure and promotion to associate professor were: Janice Attala, Shirley Bissen, Cezary Janikow, Carole Murphy, Richard Pacelle, John Rawlings, Steven Schreiner, Margaret Sherraden, Nancy Shields, Eduardo Silva, Ashok Subramanian, Chikako Usui, Cathy Vatterott, Gayle Wilkinson and Shiyong Zhao.

News faculty access lines installed. Over the past year, UM-St. Louis has tripled its capacity for off-campus access to the campus computer network. Improvements for off-campus access to the computer network have been completed with the installation of 47 new phone lines. Effective April 1, faculty can access that phone bank by dialing 653-3100.

Faculty member elected president of national association. Mark Pope, associate professor of behavioral studies, has

been elected president of the National Career Development Association. NCDA was founded in 1913 as the National Vocational Guidance Association and was one of the founding associations of the American Counseling Association in 1952.

New director named for MPPA program. Andre Glassberg, associate professor of political science, has been named director of the Master's of Public Policy Administration program, replacing Carol Kohfeld.

Fiction and poetry reading planned. Graduate students from the English department's creative writing program will read from their fiction and poetry at 7:30 p.m., April 5 in the downstairs recreation room at Pierre Laclède Honors College. Call 516-5541 for details.

Recreational sports. A men's and women's table tennis tournament will be held April 7 through 11 in the Mark Twain Building. Matches will be scheduled according to the skill level and availability of players. Register in Room 203 of the Mark Twain Building by April 1, or call 516-5326 for details.

former intern, also believes that her internship was very helpful.

"I was an intern last year. Now I am working here," Johnson said. "It was well worth my time."

However, Cusumano maintains that interns interested in broadcasting need airtime at KWMU. The only way you can get better is if you practice," he said.

UM - St. LOUIS 17TH ANNUAL AWARENESS WEEK APRIL 7-11, 1997

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APRIL 9
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APRIL 10
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APRIL 11
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"Hear No Evil"
"An Angel at My Table"

* MOVIE MARATHON - FREE
"An Angel at My Table"
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"Blink"
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* Disability Awareness Information
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MARATHON RACE
Sign-Up in U Center Lobby by Noon

* MOVIE - FREE
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Summit Lounge
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U Center Lobby
12:15 p.m.

Summit Lounge
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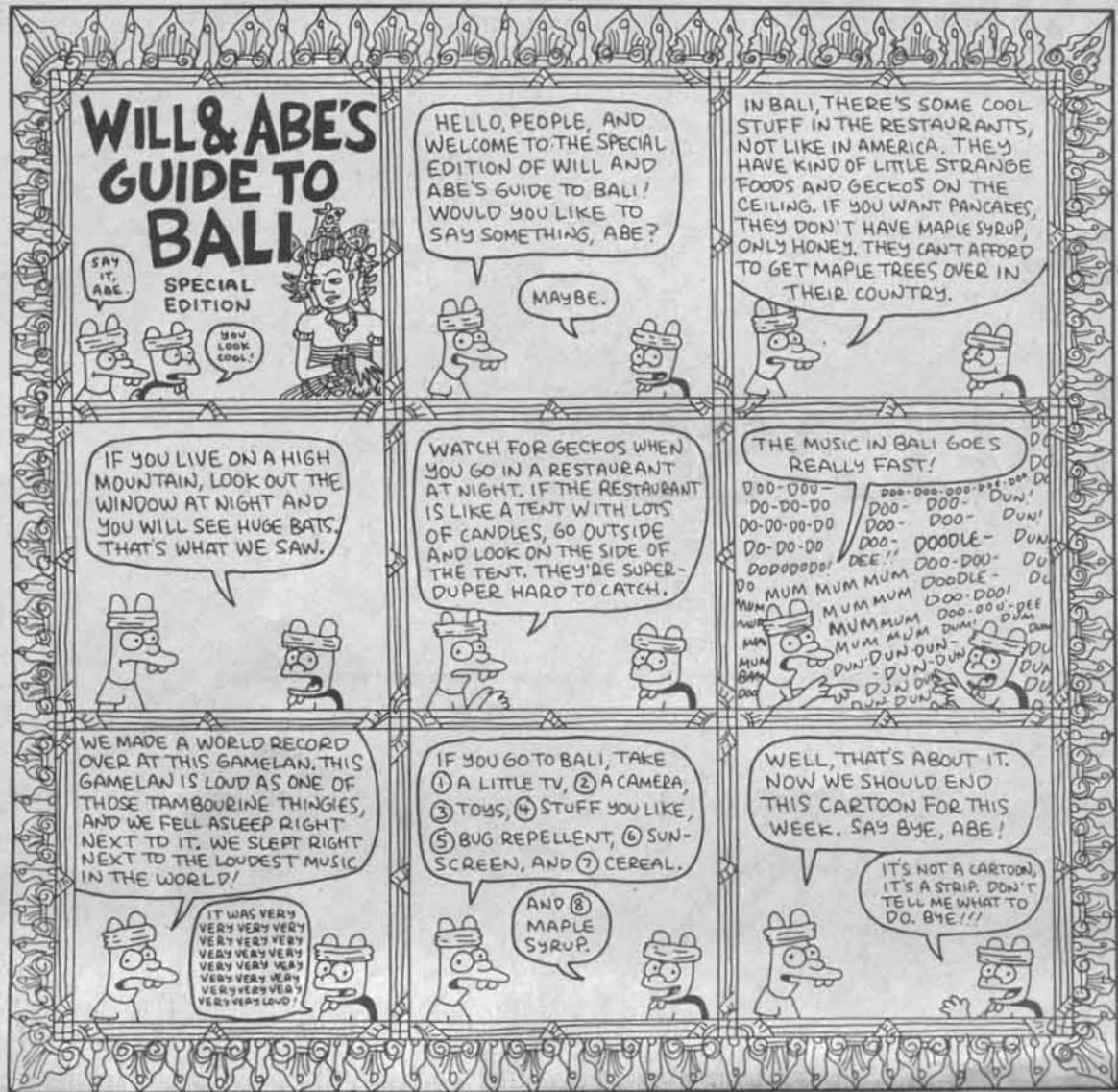
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